



AADSOM ANNUAL REPORT 2023

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**Embracing resilience in
the face of adverseries.**

Executive Director's Message

The convergence of climate shocks, conflict, displacement, and economic instability created a complex crisis that necessitated urgent intervention. The nation suffered from its longest recorded drought since 1981, nearly pushing the country into famine and affecting millions of people.

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I'm thrilled to present to you the 2023 Annual Report of Action Against Disasters Somalia (AADSOM). Over the course of the year, AADSOM remained at the forefront of responding to the dire humanitarian challenges in Somalia, addressing the impacts of recurring droughts and conflicts in its operational areas.

In 2023, Somalia encountered unprecedented challenges stemming from an intricate mix of severe climatic shocks, conflict, displacement, and economic instability. An estimated 8.25 million people required urgent humanitarian assistance, with the specter of famine looming large. The repercussions of El Niño were especially severe, with over 2.5 million individuals bearing the brunt of its impact.

The situation was further aggravated by conflict-related displacement, affecting 653,000 individuals and causing nearly 1,300 civilian deaths. These challenges exacerbated access limitations, escalating operational costs amid diminishing funds.

The convergence of climate-related shocks, conflicts, displacement, and economic challenges continues to drive complex emergencies that require immediate and comprehensive responses.

As we look toward 2024, the landscape remains daunting. Somalia remains vulnerable, still reeling from its most severe drought on record and ongoing displacements driven by environmental and conflict-related factors. The magnitude of humanitarian needs cannot be overstated. Given the magnitude of humanitarian needs, I implore our donors to sustain their generous support for AADSOM and the entire local humanitarian community and to make commitments as early as possible to enable timely responses.

AADSOM is steadfast in its commitment to being at the forefront of responding to these crises, capitalizing on its strategic role in both natural and human-made disaster responses and its active role within the humanitarian fraternity and coordination frameworks in the country.

Sincerely,

Guled Osman

Executive Director

AADSOM AT A GLANCE

Action Against Disasters Somalia (AADSOM) is a national, non-profit humanitarian organization dedicated to saving lives, alleviating human suffering, and preserving dignity in response to both man-made crises and natural disasters in Somalia.

AADSOM focuses its intervention efforts on key thematic areas, including Water, Sanitation, and Hygiene (WASH), Food Security and Livelihoods (FSL), Health and Nutrition (H&N), Climate Change, and Education.

Aligned with core humanitarian principles and standards, AADSOM is dedicated to upholding and advancing the application of "principled humanitarianism" values. This commitment entails fostering greater community and stakeholder engagement while ensuring coherence with universal standards, which the organization both adheres to and vigorously advocates for.

Despite the persistently challenging humanitarian landscape across many regions of Somalia, AADSOM remains steadfast in its advocacy for impartial and unconditional aid delivery to affected communities. This approach aims to mitigate the devastating impacts of crises on the lives, livelihoods, and overall well-being of the communities it serves.

Given its primary mandate of disaster response, AADSOM distinguishes itself from other actors by maintaining impartiality in its assistance efforts. Regardless of factors such as race, gender, nationality, religious beliefs, or socioeconomic status, the organization remains committed to providing aid in crisis situations, whether stemming from conflict, violence, or natural disasters.



MISSION & VISION

Action Against Disasters' Somalia (AADSOM) is driven by a clear mission, vision, and set of values that guide its purpose. Through its mission, vision, and values, AADSOM aims to make a significant difference in the lives of vulnerable populations in Somalia and contribute to building a more resilient and sustainable future for the communities it serves.

Mission:

Our mission is to alleviate suffering, poverty, and oppression by helping people build secure, productive, and just communities.

Vision

AADSOM's overarching vision is to actively contribute to the socioeconomic development of the target communities by strengthening their capacity, and implementing humanitarian and socioeconomic safety interventions to alleviate poverty and ignorance; thereby creating a stable Somali population that is motivated by creativity and innovation as compared to conflicts for survival.

Core values:

AADSOM is driven by a set of globally recognized core values that guide its purpose and actions. These core values include a commitment to humanitarian principles, integrity, transparency, accountability, and equity. Through its dedicated core values commitments, AADSOM strives to promote dignity, respect, and inclusivity throughout all its programs. Our values are underpinned by the following widely endorsed humanitarian values and beliefs:

- **Humanity**
- **Neutrality**
- **Impartiality**
- **Independence**
- **Integrity**
- **Respect**
- **Gender equality**
- **Accountability**



2023 in Review

Somalia continued to grapple with a series of unparalleled challenges, marked by a convergence of an intricate mix of severe climatic shocks, conflict, displacement, and economic instability necessitating comprehensive and timely humanitarian intervention. The nation suffered from its longest recorded drought since 1981, pushing the country nearly into famine and affecting a third of its population, or 6.6 million people with acute food insecurity. Despite concerted efforts, the specter of famine loomed large, persisting well into the year, and perpetuating a cycle of food insecurity and malnutrition that lingered even after the drought subsided by mid-2023.

The situation was further compounded by intense flooding, exacerbated by El Niño and the Indian Ocean Dipole (IOD). Over 2.5 million people were directly affected, with 1.7 million forced to flee their homes and 1.5 million hectares of vital farmland submerged under water, wreaking havoc on essential services and infrastructure.

Drought and conflict-induced displacements have increased fivefold since the beginning of 2022, with 3.8 million people, predominantly women and children, seeking refuge within the country's borders. Those fleeing conflict-ridden regions faced grim conditions upon reaching urban centers, where access to nutritious food, essential services, and adequate humanitarian aid remained elusive.

An estimated 4.85 million children were out of school and lacked access to protective quality education – one of the world's highest proportions of out-of-school children, with a Gross Enrollment Ratio (GER) significantly remaining below those of sub-Saharan Africa, low-income countries, and fragile and conflict affected countries.

By the end of 2023, 4.3 million Somali people faced severe acute food insecurity, and 1.5 million children under five faced malnutrition.

In summary, the humanitarian situation in Somalia remained dire in 2023, with millions of people facing acute needs stemming from conflict, displacement, food insecurity, and other complex challenges.

Key figures:

16.9 M

Population
(HNO 2023)

8.25 M

People in Need
(HNO 2023)

5.1 M

Children in Need
(HNO 2023)

3.8 M

People Internally
Displaced (HNO 2023)



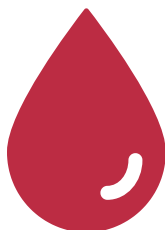
Prioritized Interventions

Amidst the persisting humanitarian crisis and escalating drought conditions in Somalia, AADSOM remained steadfast in its commitment to delivering life-saving assistance, with a particular focus on strengthening food security, providing essential WASH (Water, Sanitation, and Hygiene) services, and ensuring access to education. Priority was accorded to communities residing in underserved and remote areas, with special consideration given to the needs of women, girls, and individuals with disabilities across all interventions.



Food Security

Acute food insecurity has continued to worsen across Somalia putting at risk the lives of millions of Somalis. AADSOM continued its relief efforts to provide humanitarian assistance to drought and conflict-affected communities, reaching 65,346 people.



WASH services

An estimated 5.5 million people have suffered acute water shortages, forcing people to resort to unsafe water sources, triggering spikes of acute watery diarrhea (AWD) and cholera cases. In response, AADSOM reached 20,400 with emergency safe water services.



Education

Approximately 4.85 million children were still deprived of schooling and lacked access to education that is both high in quality and protective in nature. AADSOM remained committed to its strategic priorities, notably supporting the sustainability of educational institutions it has constructed and rehabilitated.



Addressing El Niño:

Life-Saving Emergency and Sustainable WASH Response



Somalia experienced heavy rains and floods in the fourth quarter of 2023 due to El Niño and a positive Indian Ocean Dipole, resulting in significant loss of lives, property damage, and displacement of populations, exacerbating existing vulnerabilities caused by the recurrent droughts and ongoing conflicts. The country's riverine communities, particularly vulnerable to such disasters, witnessed extensive inundation along the Juba and Shabelle rivers, affecting approximately 1.5 million hectares of land.

In response, AADSOM in partnership with SHF Somalia implemented an early emergency lifesaving WASH response to El Niño-affected communities in the Beletweyne district of the Hiran Region, targeting 20,400 flood-affected people (3,400 households). The project aimed to increase early accessibility of emergency and sustainable lifesaving WASH services to the most vulnerable and flood-affected communities in the Beletweyne district in a dignified manner during and post-floods.

Following the receding of floodwaters and the return of displaced populations to their homes, AADSOM transitioned to rehabilitation and resilience-building efforts. This included rehabilitating 18 shallow wells, conducting post-flood shock chlorination, and constructing 142 gender-sensitive flood-proof latrines, along with providing sanitation tools for clean-up efforts within IDP camps.

Continuous efforts were made to mitigate the risk of disease outbreaks through awareness campaigns utilizing various channels, including house-to-house visits, engagement with religious leaders, and community events such as football tournaments to disseminate hygiene promotion messages among youth populations.





Safety Net for Human Capital Project (SNHCP) Baxnaano Project



The Somalia Shock Responsive Safety Net for Human Capital Project (SNHCP), known as 'Baxnaano', is a government-led initiative in Somalia aimed at providing support to the country's most impoverished and vulnerable households. Its primary goal is to offer cash assistance to 200,000 targeted households while laying the foundation for a comprehensive national safety net system capable of responding effectively to shocks. Under the cash transfer program, each household receives a predictable monthly transfer of \$20, totaling \$60 per quarter.

Baxnaano's long-term objective is to facilitate the transition from prolonged humanitarian aid reliance to a domestically driven safety net mechanism, empowering communities to combat persistent poverty, promote human development, and fortify resilience against future shocks.

AADSOM in partnership with the World Food Program (WFP), continued to reach out 9,861 HHs (59,166 people) in the Beletweyne district, Hiran Region. Through targeted cash transfers, the project has significantly improved access to essential resources and bolstered food security among vulnerable populations, marking a tangible step toward alleviating poverty and enhancing community resilience.





Addressing El Niño:

Integrated Food Security and Shelter Response



On October 21, 2023, Beletweyne experienced intense and prolonged rains, which led to unanticipated flooding in the town's lowland areas and the riverine areas, where the majority of the vulnerable population—primarily internally displaced people—resided. The inundations damaged homes, property, food supplies, and temporary shelters used by 40,800 individuals living in 6,800 IDP and impoverished households. The floods also impacted the affected populations' levels of sanitation and hygiene, especially in the IDP sites where 45% of the latrines were either destroyed or overflowed with floodwater.

The flash floods have impacted more than 250,000 people, or 90% of the city's population, forcing them out of their homes—many of them piling their belongings onto the roofs of minibusses and donkey carts. This event highlighted the urgent need for water, sanitation, and hygiene (WASH), shelter, food security, and livelihoods for persons displaced in the aftermath. Approximately

In response, AADSOM, in partnership with Diakonie Katastrophenhilfe under the TOGETHER program's HOIFA component, provided immediate food security and shelter for households affected by El Niño in Beletweyne district. AADSOM provided unconditional food vouchers to 467 flood-affected households, benefiting roughly 2,802 individuals over two months.





MAKO'S STORY

REPLACING DESPAIR WITH HOPE

Mako Ibrahim, a 55-year-old widow and mother of ten, faced immense hardships due to a prolonged drought that led to the loss of her husband, belongings, and livestock. With three disabled children and others to care for, she has been living in IDP camps for years now, working odd jobs to support her family. Recently, her health worsened due to diabetes and kidney issues, adding to her struggles.

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Mako's story is not just one of personal struggle but a testament to the resilience of the human spirit against the unyielding forces of nature and circumstance.

The desolation of losing her husband and all her possessions to the unforgiving clutches of consecutive droughts had forced Mako into the confines of an IDP camp in the Beletweyne District. With no reprieve in sight, she took on menial jobs, washing clothes to eke out a meager existence for her family. But fate wasn't done testing her courage. Health woes crept in, with diabetes and kidney issues casting a dark shadow over her already precarious conditions.

For the last four years, the Midnimo IDP camp in Beletweyne District became Mako's reluctant sanctuary, where she pieced together a meager existence through sporadic labor, trading her sweat for insufficient sustenance.

The recent barrage of El Niño's heavy rains and floods further plunged Mako's family into despair, rendering their bush shelter inadequate against the ferocious torrents that displaced over 90% of Beledweyne's populace, including Mako's family. With her meager supplies washed away once more, Mako found herself facing a familiar abyss of despair.



Mako Ibrahim, 55, Midnimo Camp, Beledweyne, Hiran region, Somalia



AADSOM Project implementation team

"It felt like the world was conspiring against us," Mako recalled, her voice tinged with resignation. "We fled to the outskirts, but there was no escape from the devastation. My children fell ill, and hunger gnawed at our insides."

In response to the flooding in Beletweyne district, Action Against Disasters Somalia (AADSOM), in collaboration with the Diakonie Katastrophenhilfe, swiftly initiated a comprehensive food security and shelter intervention for the affected households in Beletweyne. This initiative extended unconditional food vouchers to 467 households, encompassing approximately 2,802 individuals, over a span of two months.

Selected as one of the fortunate few, Mako received the valuable lifeline she so desperately needed – a two months' worth of food vouchers and a shelter tarpaulin. With this assistance, she could breathe a sigh of relief, if only for a moment. The burden of putting food on the table lifted, her children's hungry cries silenced, Mako found solace in the embrace of assistance, a blaze of light in her darkest hours.

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"I am humbly grateful," she murmured, her voice a melody of gratitude and relief.

No longer did the specter of hunger loom over her family.

With stability restored, dignity reclaimed, Mako could dare for hope once more. Ramadan, once an indication of hardship, now held with a promise, a testament to the resilience of her spirit in the face of adversity.

In closing, she expressed gratitude for the support, noting the positive impact on their lives. With this aid, Mako's family regained stability and dignity, alleviating the constant fear of hunger, especially during Ramadan.



Final Remarks

We acknowledge once again the valuable contributions of our esteemed donors and partners for their unwavering support and collaboration throughout the year 2023. Your generous contributions and steadfast commitments have played a pivotal role in enabling us to deliver impactful humanitarian assistance and disaster response initiatives to vulnerable communities in Somalia. Your trust in our mission has empowered us to provide critical life-saving assistance to those most in need,

Especial thanks go to the following partners and donors:

- SHF Somalia
- World Food Program (WFP Somalia)
- Diakonie Katastrophenhilfe (ToGETHER Program)

We thank you for your continued support in our efforts to save lives and alleviate human suffering.



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